

To: Interested Parties

Date: March 25, 2014

Re: Stakeholder Statements – Waters of the US

Industry/Agriculture/Developers/Business

National Farmers Union | Chandler Goule, National Farmers Union (NFU) senior vice president of programs

"NFU has long advocated for increased certainty surrounding Clean Water Act requirements for family farmers and ranchers in the wake of complicating Supreme Court decisions. Today's draft rule clarifies Clean Water Act jurisdiction, maintains existing agricultural exemptions and adds new exemptions, and encourages enrollment in U.S. Department of Agriculture conservation programs. "In addition, farmers and ranchers who are voluntarily enacting certain conservation practices on their farms will be exempt from Clean Water Act Section 404 permitting requirements." "Today's ag-friendly announcement clearly indicates that NFU and other agricultural stakeholders made their voices heard, and EPA took notice. I encourage EPA to continue to rebuild trust with the agricultural community by withdrawing its proposal to reduce the Renewable Fuel Standard targets." [[Press Release](#), 3/25/2014]

The National Mining Association | Luke Popovich, Spokesperson

"The agency provides 'certainty' only in the sense that it certainly confirms widespread suspicions that EPA would take this opportunity to tighten its regulatory grip on the U.S. economy." [E&E, 3/25/2014]

The National Association of Homebuilders | Kevin Kelly, President

While NAHB has long asked for the rulemaking, EPA's proposal goes too far. "EPA was told to make changes to the rule so that everyone understands exactly when a builder needs a federal wetlands permit before turning the first shovel of dirt," said Kevin Kelly, NAHB president and a home builder and developer from Wilmington, Del. "Instead, EPA has added just about everything into its jurisdiction by expanding the definition of a 'tributary' – even ditches and manmade canals, or any other feature that a regulator determines to have a bed, bank and high-water mark. It's a waste of taxpayer resources to treat a rainwater ditch with the same scrutiny as we would the Delaware Bay." [[Press Release](#), 3/25/2014]

North Carolina Wildlife Federation | Tim Gestwicki, CEO

"This is a huge step forward for protecting our waters and wildlife. We simply cannot protect our rivers, lakes, and bays without protecting the many small streams and wetlands that feed into them." "The proposal clarifies which waters are—and which are not—protected by the Clean Water Act. It will protect many streams and wetlands that are currently in legal limbo. The rule also specifically excludes many man-made ditches, ponds, and irrigation systems and honors the law's current exemptions for normal farming, ranching, and forestry practices." "From mountain trout anglers, to piedmont bass enthusiasts and duck hunters in eastern NC, this is a critical step towards protecting our sporting heritage and our outdoor future." [[Press Release](#), 3/24/2014]

Center for Rural Affairs | John Crabtree, CEO

"Rural America - and the family farmers, ranchers and small towns therein - are the tip of the spear in protecting the quality of the water of the United States," said John Crabtree of the Center for Rural Affairs. "The proposed rule is a commonsense effort to clear the regulatory waters, protect the quality of the nation's surface waters, and provide an environment in which economically vital activities such as

hunting, fishing and birding as well as farming and ranching can both thrive and contribute to a better quality of life and safer drinking water for those of us that live here, and also for our neighbors downstream.” [Press Release, 3/24/2014]

American Sustainable Business Council (ASBC) | Richard Eidlin, Co-founder and Policy Director

“In a statement, ASBC said it supports the proposed rule because it will give the business community more confidence that streams and rivers will be protected, and provide a consistent regulatory system based on sound science. The following may be attributed to Richard Eidlin, Co-founder and Policy Director for ASBC: American business has always depended on the availability of clean water for its success, and EPA’s regulation in this area historically has been a prime example of the vital partnership between business and government. Whether a company is a food producer, a high tech manufacturer of silicon wafers, outdoor recreation guide or a beer manufacturer, businesses rely on clean water to produce high quality and safe products. Ever since the passage of the Clean Water Act in 1972, the EPA has been charged with ensuring that our water supply remains safe. Today, we applaud the EPA for taking steps to clarify that small streams, wetlands and other tributaries are protected by the Act. Degradation and loss of wetlands or small streams can increase the risk of floods there by threatening businesses. Moreover, dirty, polluted water creates unnecessary and sometimes very difficult economic challenges for communities and businesses alike. Today’s action by the EPA is good for the environment and good for business.” [Press Release, 3/25/2014]

American Farm Bureau Federation | Paul Schlegel, Environmental and Energy Policy Director

“The EPA is pushing the limits of what it can do.” [The Wall Street Journal, 3/25/2014]

American Farm Bureau Federation | Don Parrish, regulatory specialist

“EPA is trying to implement new rules before it’s gone through the established rulemaking process. Farmers and ranchers are already getting caught up in expansive definitions, including Wyoming farmer Andy Johnson. ... That’s what we’re talking about, narrowing an exemption for a farm pond in this case. And now we’ve got a farmer threatened with \$70,000 a day penalties. Those are the types of things that is really going to put farmers in a really bad situation.” [AFBF Newslines, 3/20/2014]

National Cattlemen’s Beef Association | Bob McCan, President

“This is a step too far, even by an agency and an administration notorious for over-regulation,” says McCan. “This proposal by EPA and the Corps would require cattlemen like me to obtain costly and burdensome permits to take care of everyday chores like moving cattle across a wet pasture or cleaning out a dugout. These permits will stifle economic growth and inhibit future prosperity without a corresponding environmental benefit. This proposed regulation and the burdensome federal permitting scheme will only hinder producers’ ability to undertake necessary tasks and, in turn, result in an exodus of ranchers from the field.” [SoutheastAg Net, 3/25/2014]

Environmental/Conservation Organizations/Hook & Bullet

Hispanic Access Foundation | Maite Arce, President

“Water is the lifeblood of our environment and as demands grow we need to be vigilant in protecting against pollution and keeping our ecosystems intact. Our river systems are an integral part of our Hispanic heritage and way of life. It’s our moral obligation to conserve the landscape, rivers, wildlife and natural historical places for future generations.

“This rule change will strengthen the protection of our nation’s streams and wetlands, which in turn supports tourism and agricultural industries. Families, anglers, hunters, recreationist and even

businesses depending upon reliable water supplies will benefit from this proposal.

"Clean water is essential for everyone, but Hispanics face disproportionate health hazards largely due to poor environmental health. Greater protections for our nation's water systems will help address some of the larger health issues that affect our community as a whole." [\[Press Release, 3/25/2014\]](#)

Natural Resources Defense Council | Peter Lehner, Executive Director

"This is good news for boaters, anglers, swimmers and families who rely on clean drinking water. EPA took an important step to finally rescue these waters from legal limbo. Even though these are common-sense protections, the polluters are sure to attack them. People who care about clean water need to make their voices heard in the comment period." [\[Press Release, 3/25/2014\]](#)

NRDC Blogs by [Peter Lehner](#), [Karen Hobbs](#) & [Jon Devine](#).

Ducks Unlimited | Dale Hall, CEO

"The release of the draft rule gets us one step closer to better defining Clean Water Act regulations in regard to wetlands," said Ducks Unlimited CEO Dale Hall. "We are also pleased with the open process EPA has adopted, which invites the public, Congress and all interested parties to participate in the discussion. EPA's draft science report last year showed many categories of wetlands, including prairie potholes, may be geographically isolated but are still connected to, and have a significant impact on, downstream waters." [\[Press Release, 3/25/2014\]](#)

Trout Unlimited | Chris Wood, President and CEO

"Today's proposal speaks to the heart of the Clean Water Act—making rivers more fishable and swimmable," said Chris Wood, president and CEO of Trout Unlimited. "The waters affected by today's proposal provide vital spawning and rearing habitat for trout and salmon. Simply stated, the proposal will make fishing better, and anglers should support it. Restoring protections to these waters ensures healthy habitat for fish and a bright future for anglers." [\[Press Release, Blog, 3/25/2014\]](#)

Environment America | Margie Alt, Executive Director

"Whether we look back to the recent spill in West Virginia that left 300,000 people without drinking water or ahead to the dead zones that will blight Lake Erie and the Chesapeake Bay this summer, it's obvious that our waterways are not as clean or safe as we need them to be – for our drinking water, for recreation, or for the health of our ecosystems and wildlife," said Margie Alt, executive director of Environment America. "Today's action by the EPA will help ensure that all our waterways get the protection they need so we can enjoy them for years to come." "When finalized, this rule will be the biggest step forward for clean water in more than a decade," said Alt. "Thank you, Administrator McCarthy and all the staff at the EPA, for fighting to protect clean water. We look forward to working with you to get the job done." [\[Press Release, 3/25/2014\]](#)

American Rivers | Bob Irvin, President of American Rivers

"What happens in small streams and wetlands upstream affects the health of our rivers and the communities that depend upon them downstream," said Bob Irvin, President of American Rivers. "The proposed rule released today by the Environmental Protection Agency relies on sound science to clarify the scope of protections under the Clean Water Act for these critical upstream waters that contribute to our drinking water supplies and protect us from flooding. This is an important step forward to better protect and restore our nation's rivers." While these clarifications are an important step forward, American Rivers will continue to urge the Administration to go further to restore historical protections under the Clean Water Act through the public comment process" [\[Press Release, 3/25/2014\]](#)

Clean Water Action | Bob Wendelgass, Clean Water Action President and CEO

"These small streams are critical to the health of drinking water sources for nearly one third of all Americans" said Bob Wendelgass, Clean Water Action President and CEO, "The rule proposed today is clear, concise, and well supported by both the law and science. It's long overdue - Congress protected these vital resources when the landmark Clean Water Act passed in 1972 and these protections were wrongly revoked 12 years ago. This proposal, when finalized, will go a long way toward restoring protections and reflecting the way that water works in the real world."

[[Press Release](#), 3/25/2014]

League of Conservation Voters | President Gene Karpinski, CEO

"This is an important step forward for restoring the true scope of the Clean Water Act and protecting our nation's waterways. This rule will protect vital streams and wetlands that provide drinking water for over 117 million Americans, filter pollution, and reduce the impacts of flooding and erosion. This comes on the heels of President Obama's designation of the Point Arena-Stornetta Public Lands as a National Monument and the continued implementation of his Climate Action Plan, and further demonstrates his strong commitment to protecting our environment and our health." [[Press Release](#), 3/25/2014]

Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership | Whit Fosburgh TRCP President and CEO

"Several leading sportsmen's organizations – the [American Fly Fishing Trade Association](#), [Berkley Conservation Institute](#), [Izaak Walton League of America](#), [National Wildlife Federation](#), [Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership](#), [Trout Unlimited](#) and [Wildlife Management Institute](#) – applauded the release of the proposed rule, saying that it would better protect important habitats for fish and wildlife." "We are pleased the administration has taken this crucial step to provide clarity and certainty to landowners, conservationists and businesses regarding waters of the United States," said TRCP President and CEO Whit Fosburgh. "Long overdue, this action restores some – but not all – Clean Water Act protections to these critical resources, conserving healthy habitat, upholding water quality and supporting the sporting traditions that tens of millions of Americans enjoy." [[Press Release](#), 3/25/2014]

Izaak Walton League | Scott Kovarovics, Executive Director

"The Corps and EPA are proposing balanced, science-based policy to restore essential protections for streams, wetlands, and other waters," said Scott Kovarovics, Izaak Walton League Executive Director. "The proposal will better protect streams that provide drinking water to 117 million people and help conserve streams and wetlands that are vital to a vibrant outdoor recreation economy." [[Press Release](#), 3/25/2014]

Clean Water Action | Minnesota Center For Environmental Advocacy | Minnesota Conservation Federation | Minnesota Trout Unlimited | Izaak Walton League | Minnesota Environmental Partnership

State conservation groups strongly support a new federal rule, announced today by the Obama Administration, which aims to better protect U.S. waters from pollution and destruction, including those in Minnesota. "This rule will benefit millions of people across the country and in Minnesota," said Darrell Gerber, Program Coordinator, Clean Water Action. "The rule removes confusion over which streams and wetlands are covered by the Clean Water Act due to polluter friendly court decisions and subsequent Bush administration policies. It's good for our environment, economy, and quality of life." [[Press Release](#), 3/25/2014]

National Wildlife Federation | Larry Schweiger, President and CEO

"This is a huge step forward for protecting America's waters and wildlife. You cannot tear out a tree's fine roots and expect it to survive. The streams and wetlands protected by this rule supply drinking water to more than one-third of all Americans. Our rivers, lakes, and bays will be cleaner and healthier once this rule becomes the law of the land. "This proposal clarifies which waters are-and which are not-protected by the Clean Water Act. It will protect streams and wetlands that are currently in legal limbo. The rule also specifically excludes many man-made ditches, ponds, and irrigation systems and honors the law's current exemptions for normal farming, ranching, and forestry practices. "Our only disappointment is that the proposal stops short of restoring full protections for many wetlands important for wildlife, such as prairie potholes, Carolina bays, vernal pools, and playa lakes. We look forward to making the legal and scientific case for protecting these waters during the comment period to come." [[Press Release](#), 3/25/2014]

National Wildlife Federation | Joshua Saks, Legislative Director

"Since 2006, what is and isn't covered by the Clean Water Act has been under dispute. Our sportsmen have been waiting for new regulations for years. Now the EPA and Army Corps will be able to help preserve wildlife and fishing habitats which have been endangered." [[WallStreet Journal](#), 3/25/2014]

Outdoor Alliance member American Whitewater | National Stewardship Director Kevin Colburn

American Whitewater's National Stewardship Director Kevin Colburn explained that one of the most important aspects of the proposed rule is that it confirms that the Clean Water Act applies to headwater streams and related wetlands. "The recreational, ecological, and economic benefits of clarifying Clean Water Act protection for headwater streams are enormous," said Colburn. "The new rule will protect the quality of water in our taps, flowing through our communities, and under our boats. The nation's headwater rivers and streams are particularly important in providing clean cold drinking water for millions of Americans. These same streams offer world-class recreation opportunities that improve the quality of life and economic viability for countless communities. Kayakers and rafters spend more time in direct contact with headwater streams than just about anyone, which makes water quality very important to paddlers, Colburn explained. "This initiative promises to protect the safety of our rivers for paddling, fishing, swimming, and even just dipping your toes in."

[[Press Release](#), 3/25/2014]

Earthjustice | Chris Espinosa, Clean Water Legislative and Policy Advocate

"The Waters of the U.S. rule will restore Clean Water Act coverage to many of our nation's water bodies, ensuring that families, anglers, and recreationalists who value and rely upon safe and clean water can know that their waters are protected. The rule will also provide certainty to small businesses, ranchers, and farmers who, like all of us, rely on clean water supplies to thrive in their enterprises. The draft rule is a positive step forward in making sure that clean water is able to be enjoyed by all for many generations to come." [[Blog](#), 3/25/2014]

Earthjustice | Trip Van Noppen, President

"We applaud the EPA for proposing a rule that would reinstate clean water protections for streams and wetlands that supply the drinking water of 117 million Americans. Unfortunately, for the last decade while these protections have lapsed, we have seen the consequences of not protecting our waters. Today, more than 55 percent of our rivers and streams are in 'poor' condition, considered unfit for drinking, swimming, or fishing. As the West Virginia chemical spill shows, the cost of not having clean water is too great a price to pay. The EPA's new Clean Water Act rule finally restores protections so that we can begin the hard work of cleaning up our waters for our children to swim in, fish in, and drink

from. No doubt, polluters will rail and lobby against this rule and any other clean water safeguards that keep them from dumping their toxic waste in our communities and waters, or that hold them accountable for their pollution. We cannot back down on protecting the waters that eventually flow through our faucets. Our children, our health, and our very drinking water are at stake. We urge the Obama administration to resist the polluter lobbies and quickly move forward in protecting our waterways and our families." [\[Press Release, 3/25/2014\]](#) –

"Today's long-overdue EPA rule finally clears up all the confusion left by these two court rulings, and it restores protections that were stripped away by the Bush policies. It is based on over 1,000 independent peer-reviewed scientific studies that show what is commonly known: Our waters are connected. Polluters and their friends in Congress will cry that this amounts to government overreach -- that the EPA wants to regulate the puddles at the end of our driveways. But this isn't about puddles; it's about protecting the critical sources of our drinking water. It's about ensuring that our children can swim in our rivers and fish in our creeks. And it's about saving the wetlands that serve as a sponge, a pollutant filter, and natural flood protection for our communities downstream. We cannot back down on protecting the waters that eventually flow through our faucets. Our children, our health, and our very drinking water are at stake. We urge the Obama administration to resist the polluter lobbies and quickly move forward in protecting our waterways and our families." [\[Blog, 3/25/2014\]](#)

Faith-Based Community

Evangelical Environmental Network | Rev. Mitch Hescox President & CEO

"We are thankful that [the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the EPA](#) have worked together to propose a new rule that clarifies the protection needed to ensure pure water, defend our children's health, and codify exemptions that have long applied to farmers. There are simply too many stories like a crude oil spill in Texas that fouled drinking water, 5000 gallons of oil spilled into a stream in Denver, or livestock waste in Georgia polluting a local lake. Each of the above and many more were never enforced because of confusion created." [\[Press Release, 3/25/2014\]](#)

Government

U.S. Senator Mary L. Landrieu, D-LA, Chair of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee

"Today's proposed rule by the EPA represents yet another example of this agency overreaching and stepping outside of its bounds without thought to the economic consequences of its actions. This decision lacks common sense and will hamper our nation's efforts to increase domestic energy production, create jobs, reduce our dependence on foreign oil and break the oppressive grip of tyrants and dictators across the globe. Along our working coast, we drill, fish and recreate in the same waters, so we understand the need to strike a balance that allows us to develop natural resources that power our nation and also protect our wildlife, waterways and wetlands. Unfortunately, the EPA seems unable or unwilling to find any balance in its decision making. I will work with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to find a legislative solution to reverse this unfair, unwise and unnecessary decision." [\[Press Release, 3/25/2014\]](#)

U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer, D-CA, Chair of Senate Environment and Public Works

"I am so pleased that the EPA and Army Corps are taking important steps to provide certainty and clarity to ensure that our wetlands and streams are protected. Communities and businesses depend on a safe water supply, and the proposed rule will provide the consistency and predictability that is needed to safeguard the nation's water resources." [\[Press Release, 3/25/2014\]](#)

Governor John Hickenlooper, D-CO & Governor Brian Sandoval, R-NV

“As Governors of Western states, we are concerned that this rulemaking was developed without sufficient consultation with the states and that the rulemaking could impinge upon state authority in water management. As co-regulators of water resources, states should be fully consulted and engaged in any process that may affect the management of their waters. While the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) have provided briefings to inform states that rulemaking is underway, the conversations to date have not been sufficiently detailed to constitute substantive consultation. Western Governors strongly urge both EPA and the Corps to engage states as authentic partners in the management of Western waters. States have federally-recognized authority to manage and allocate water within their boundaries. Section 101(g) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) expressly states that, “the authority of each state to allocate quantities of water within its jurisdiction shall not be superseded, abrogated, or otherwise impaired by this Act.” The Western States Water Council, in its March 10, 2014, correspondence to you both, delineates the areas of concern states have with this rulemaking process. Western Governors urge you to engage with us, individually and through the Western Governors’ Association, to resolve these important concerns in advance of any further action on this issue.” [\[Joint Letter, 3/25/2014\]](#)

U.S. Representative Lamar Smith, R-TX, House Science, Space and Technology Chairman

“As expected, the EPA’s proposed water rule expands the agency’s control over natural and man-made streams, lakes, ponds and wetlands. If approved, this rule could allow the EPA to regulate virtually every body of water in the United States. In preparing this proposal, the EPA failed to incorporate adequate peer-reviewed science in accordance with the agency’s own statutory obligations. This could be the largest expansion ever of EPA’s authority to regulate private property. It’s troubling that the Administration proposed this expansion before its independent science advisors have had the chance to complete its review of the underlying science. The Obama administration continues to sidestep scientific integrity in order to fast track an abusive regulatory agenda.” [\[Press Release, 3/25/2014\]](#)

U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, D-RI

“We all have a stake in ensuring that our nation’s waters remain clean and safe. What happens upstream affects drinking water supplies and coastal waters, like Rhode Island’s Narragansett Bay. The Clean Water Act was passed in 1972 with broad bipartisan support; however, Supreme Court decisions have resulted in conflicting determinations about what waters are covered by the Act. The proposed rule announced today will reduce the case-by-case application of the Clean Water Act that costs regulators and industry time and money. I support the EPA’s effort to reduce the frustration that has resulted from unclear jurisdiction of the CWA and applaud them for working with both the U.S. Army Corps and U.S. Department of Agriculture to craft this rule.” [\[Press Release, 3/25/2014\]](#)

U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski, R-AK

“While I certainly agree that the federal regulatory process needs greater efficiency and certainty, it appears unlikely that this new rule will help meet either of those goals. Instead, it appears that the EPA is seeking to dramatically expand its jurisdictional reach under the Clean Water Act. If allowed to stand this could result in serious collateral damage to our economy, for a wide range of states, and for a wide range of individuals – including our nation’s sportsmen. If EPA is not careful, this rule could effectively give the federal government control of nearly all of our state – and prove to be a showstopper for both traditional access and new development. We already have significant disagreement in Alaska about the extent to which the Clean Water Act applies to us, stemming from states having control over non-navigable waters. This latest proposal will only add to the questions and concerns raised by a wide

range of Alaskans. I also question the timing of this proposed rule. The agency's scientific review panel hasn't even finished reviewing it. EPA should not be pushing the public to comment until that process is finished. EPA is once again putting the cart before the horse in an effort to greatly expand federal control – this time, in an expansion that will be devastating for Alaskans." [Press Release, 3/25/2014]

U.S. Senator David Vitter, R-LA

"The 'waters of the U.S.' rule may be one of the most significant private property grabs in U.S. history" "The early draft rule we've seen would give the federal government outright permitting authority over virtually any wet area in the country and would provide a new tool for environmental groups to sue private property owners," [Bloomberg, 3/25/2014]

Twitter

Suaeda-californica (@Suaeda_ca)

3/25/14, 7:36 PM

#EPA rules #wetlands next to rivers & streams are protected under CWA. epa.gov/uswaters
#USwaters #Pollution #Biodiversity #Flora

EPWChairmanBoxer (@EPWChairBoxer)

3/25/14, 6:06 PM

Boxer applauds EPA & Army Corps' proposal for protecting #USWaters 1.usa.gov/1jEpV8A

William G. Malley (@billmalley)

3/25/14, 5:49 PM

EPA/Corps NPRM would exclude two types of roadside ditches from Corps jurisdiction; see pp. 60-63 here: 1.usa.gov/1jEkZ3I #USwaters

Gina McCarthy (@GinaEPA)

3/25/14, 4:18 PM

Our proposed rule clarifies the protections for clean water and will help keep our communities safe and healthy. #USwaters

John Podesta (@Podesta44)

3/25/14, 3:36 PM

EPA/Army Corps clarification of #USWaters protections are earning plaudits f/
[@TroutUnlimited](#), [@DucksUnlimited](#), [@NFUDC](#), craft brewers & more

John Podesta (@Podesta44)

3/25/14, 1:45 PM

Clarified rules for #USwaters from @EPA + Army Corps will lower costs for businesses and improve waterway health www2.epa.gov/uswaters

Creation Care (@CreationCare)

3/25/14, 1:43 PM

Grateful for leadership of [@GinaEPA](#) in protecting our waters for current and future generations
[#USWaters](#)

Creation Justice (@CreationJustice)

3/25/14, 12:12 PM

Thank you [@EPA](#) and [@EPAWater](#) for working to protect water! [#WaterIsSacred](#) [#USWaters](#)
www2.epa.gov/uswaters pic.twitter.com/tDpg1wdcqi

Additional Amplification

Media Alert

March 25, 2014

Contact: Katie McKalip,

Jimmy Hague,

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Teleconference TODAY:

Army Corps and EPA Release Long-Awaited Clean Water Rule

Proposed rule restores Clean Water Act protections for waters, valuable fish and wildlife habitat

WASHINGTON – Today, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Environmental Protection Agency jointly released a proposed rule that would clearly define which streams and wetlands are protected by the Clean Water Act.

This action would begin restoring longstanding protections to many of the nation's wetlands, streams and lakes, conserving critical fish and wildlife habitat and providing flood control, drinking water and a host of other benefits.

Together with administrative guidance issued in 2003 and 2008, two Supreme Court decisions in the 2000s removed Clean Water Act protections for at least 20 million acres of wetlands, particularly prairie potholes and other seasonal wetlands essential to waterfowl populations throughout the country. Intermittent streams that provide critical habitat for fish, especially trout, and feed the public drinking water systems for more than 117 million Americans also were put at increased risk of pollution and destruction.

Hear from a range of experts how today's announcement will address these problems and protect our nation's waters and wetlands.

Who:

- **John Crabtree**, Media Director, [Center for Rural Affairs](#)
- **Rev. Mitch Hescox**, President and CEO, [Evangelical Environmental Networks](#)
- **Charlie Johnson**, Organic Farmer, The Johnson Farm

- **Bryan Simpson**, PR Director, [New Belgium Brewing Company](#)
- **Chris Wood**, President and CEO, [Trout Unlimited](#)
- **Moderator: Whit Fosburgh**, President and CEO, [Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership](#)

When: Tuesday, March 25, at 12:45 p.m. EDT/11:45 a.m. CDT/10:45 a.m. MDT/9:45 a.m. PDT

To join, call: **Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**

RSVP to Katie McKalip at: **Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**

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Inspired by the legacy of Theodore Roosevelt, the TRCP is a coalition of organizations and grassroots partners working together to preserve the traditions of hunting and fishing.

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